



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

An electronic newsletter in support of public safety services in Montana  
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## IM Weekly Highlights



- All PSIC-2 microwave installations have been completed. Final site walks are scheduled for next week.
- Crews have been working this week at the Sierra and VC Pass sites mounting microwave antennas.
- Sabre crews have completed infrastructure at the Sawtell site. This will be a shared site with the State of Idaho.
- Aviat Network's subcontractor continues this week to modify fuel-delivery systems on generators used in Northern Tier sites.

## Motorola Advanced Networking Training

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

A dozen local and state radio communications folks participated in an Interoperability Montana (IM)-sponsored Motorola networking and router training session last week. The "Advanced Networking in Motorola Communications Systems" class was all about Astro systems, switches and routers, as well as an introduction to some data management applications.

"I gained a lot of new understanding of the how's and why's of the radio network," said Charlie Gilmore, Lewis and Clark County's Radio System Administrator. "The training was good."

Jason Norman, Montana Dept. of Transportation, agreed. "I strengthened my networking knowledge quite a bit and that will carry over into a lot of other areas of my job," he said.

Julia Noland, Public Safety Services Bureau (PSSB), said "I think it was a great opportunity to bring together technical folks from across the state to provide a common foundation and understanding of the Motorola networked system."

Dale Osborne, Montana Highway Patrol (MHP) Lead Communications Technician, said the training gave him a better understanding of networking, especially as it applies to the MHP Centra-com dispatch equipment.

The IM is sponsoring a separate class on system administrator training at the Lewis and Clark County Master Controller site in October.

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## Register Online for the MT APCO Conference

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Montana Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) offers online registration for the upcoming 2010 APCO Public Safety Conference Oct. 12-14 in Bozeman. Take advantage of the early bird registration discount if you register for the conference before Oct. 1 by clicking on this link: <https://www.cvent.com/EVENTS/Register/IdentityConfirmation.aspx?e=dc364a45-dbbf-44b4-bdcc-308984d313a4>.

To ensure the discounted room rate of \$69, reservations should be made by Sept. 27 by calling the Bozeman Holiday Inn at (406) 587-4561 or by visiting [www.hibozeman.com](http://www.hibozeman.com).

The agenda is available here: [http://www.mtapco.org/2010\\_Conference.html](http://www.mtapco.org/2010_Conference.html). Wed. sessions on narrowbanding and Next Generation 9-1-1 provide opportunities to explore key communication issues. In addition, the Region 25 700 MHz Regional Planning Committee will be holding an important meeting on Tues., Oct. 12 at 2:00 pm. Don't miss this opportunity to network with other public safety professionals, participate in some great training and see the latest technology.

## Sept. is National Preparedness Month

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

September is National Preparedness Month, a designation used to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. Whether it's an earthquake or a flood, disaster can strike at any time without warning. Everyone is encouraged to be prepared for when—not if—the next emergency occurs.

The <http://www.ready.gov> website urges citizens to "prepare, plan and stay informed." The first step in preparation is to build emergency preparedness kits for your home and car. You should have at least a three-day supply of food and water for each member of your family, along with essentials such as non-perishable food, flash lights, radio, extra batteries, matches, candles, first aid supplies, medicines,



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special items for infants/elderly/disabled family members, pet food, etc.

Creating a family communication plan is another simple step you can take. Your family needs a plan that tells everyone where to meet if you have to evacuate and who you've identified as a family contact. An out-of-town contact may be in a better position to communicate among separated family members. Make sure everyone has the contact phone number ahead of time.

Lastly, the site recommends knowing what emergencies or disasters are most likely to occur in your community. Do you live near a flood plain, an earthquake fault, or in a high-fire danger area? What unexpected human-made disasters might endanger your community? Knowing what to do during an emergency is an important part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

Be sure to check out the <http://www.ready.gov> website for more tips.

### APCO Institute Offers Online Courses

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The Association for Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Institute is now offering three-week online courses at a cost of \$199 for APCO members. The courses are:

- Active Shooter Incidents for Public Safety Communications
- Crisis Negotiations for Telecommunicators
- Public Safety Communications Staffing and Employee Retention
- Customer Service in Today's Public Safety Communications Center
- EMD Manager

To register or for more information on class offerings, locations and registration information go to: [http://www.apcointl.com/institute/schedule\\_registration.htm](http://www.apcointl.com/institute/schedule_registration.htm).

You also may be interested in ordering an APCO Institute Course Catalog. Simply e-mail your name and mailing address to: [institute@apco911.org](mailto:institute@apco911.org).

## Upcoming Meetings

- **Mon., Sept. 27**  
IM Technical Committee (IMTC)  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Offices, 2715 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Sept. 28**  
Tri-County Consortium  
Helena • 10:30 am - noon  
IM Offices, 2717 Skyway Dr.
- **Tues., Sept. 28 – Meeting Cancelled**  
State Agency Radio Users Task Force
- **Sun.-Thurs., Sept. 26 - 30**  
Annual MACo Conference; <http://maco.cog.mt.us/>  
Billings • Crown Plaza, 27 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St.
- **Mon.-Thurs., Oct. 4-7**  
Tribal Homeland Security Conference  
Polson • KwaTaqNuk Best Western Resort  
49708 US Highway 93 East  
POCs: Robert DesRosier 406-450-0646 and  
Sheri Lanz 406-841-3911
- **Mon., Oct. 4**  
IM Finance Committee (IMFC)  
Helena • 9:00 am - 5:00 pm (**Please Note: Time Change**)  
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.
- **Mon., Oct. 4**  
IM Governance Committee (IMGC) - **Meeting Cancelled**
- **Tues., Oct. 5**  
IM Project Directors Meeting (IMPD)  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
State Capitol, Room 152 (**Please note the location**)
- **Tues., Oct. 12**  
Region 25 700 MHz Regional Planning Meeting  
Bozeman • 2:00 – 5:00 pm  
Holiday Inn, 5 E Baxter Lane
- **Tues.-Thurs., Oct. 12-14**  
Montana Chapter of APCO Conference  
Bozeman • Holiday Inn, 5 E Baxter Lane  
[http://www.mtapco.org/2010\\_Conference.html](http://www.mtapco.org/2010_Conference.html)
- **Tues.-Thurs., Nov. 16-18**  
Western Border Interoperability Working Group  
Regina, SK • Hosted by the Ministry of Corrections,  
Public Safety and Policing  
RCMP Depot, 6101 Dewdney Ave.  
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The week of Sept. 13, Garfield County Sheriff Frank Edwards assisted local contractors with Williams Coulee site layout work by verifying staking and tower coordinates.

